

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, KS, CA

SUBJECT:CANADIAN PRESSURE FOR ROK RATIFICATION OF NPT

REF: SEOUL 0426

1. IN RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION, COUNSELOR TURNER OF CANADIAN EMBASSY CALLED ON ZURHELLEN (EA) JANUARY 23 TO BRIEF ON CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROK ON CONNECTION BETWEEN NPT RATIFICATION AND SALE OF CANDU REACTOR. READING FROM INSTRUCTIONS (AND NOTING THAT PHRASES GIVEN IN QUOTES WERE IN QUOTES IN INSTRUCTIONS AND MEANT TO BE READ VERBATIM) TURNER SAID THAT CANADIAN GOVT HAD SUGGESTED TO ROK AT "VERY HIGH LEVEL" THAT ROK RATIFY NPT AS A MEASURE TO ASSURE WORLD COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORS OF THE PEACEFUL NATURE OF ITS NUCLEAR INTENTIONS. INITIAL ROK REACTION HAD BEEN NOT REPEAT NOT DISCOURAGING. KOREAN RESPONSE WILL BE CONSIDERED "AS IMPORTANT FACTOR" BY CANADA IN FINAL DECISION ON CANDU REACTOR SALE. MOREOVER, CANADA HAS PROPOSED A

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BILATERAL UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WITH ROK CONCLUSION OF WHICH

WILL BE A PRECONDITION TO ENTRY INTO FORCE OF COMMERCIAL CONTRACT FOR CANDU.

2. ZURHELLEN NOTED THAT WORDING ABOVE CONTAINED SAME AMBIGUITY ABOUT WHETHER CANDU SALE DEPENDED ON NPT RATIFICATION THAT HAD PROMPTED ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION

AND ASSUMED THIS WAS DELIBERATE ON CANADA'S PART. TURNER CONFIRMED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WENT NO FURTHER THAN ABOVE AND QUESTION OF WHETHER REFUSAL TO RATIFY TREATY WOULD ENDANGER SALE OF REACTOR WAS ONE FOR KOREANS TO PONDER. IN THAT CONNECTION, HE NOTED TORONTO GLOBE-MAIL HAD STORY TO EFFECT THAT CANADA HAD NOT MADE RATIFICATION AN ABSOLUTE CONDITION. HE ASKED WHETHER USG WAS PRESSING ROK FOR NPT RATIFICATION, NOTING THAT FINAL CANADIAN DECISIONS MIGHT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT WE WERE DOING.

3. ZURHELLEN REPLIED THAT USG HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN LINE THAT IT HOPED FOR WIDEST POSSIBLE ADHERENCE TO NPT BY ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ROK, AND THAT THIS HAS BEEN MADE PLAIN TO ROK OFFICIALS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR OR TWO. QUESTION OF NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS HAS BEEN UNDER INCREASED CONSIDERATION IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS ON WORLD WIDE BASIS, BUT WE HAVE TAKEN NO SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO MAKE NPT RATIFICATION A CONDITION OF ANY OF OUR DEALINGS WITH THE ROK. INGERSOLL

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